

AC 4495



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
SHIRE HALL, WARWICK.

15th September, 1941.

To The Warwickshire County Council.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. I have the honour to present my Twenty-second and last Annual Report on the health of the Administrative County of Warwick for the year ended December 31st, 1940.

This year's record is in the form of an Interim Report as recommended in Circulars 2067 and 2314 of the Ministry of Health, and will be confined to matters of particular Public Health interest, including reference to some of the activities of this Department resulting from the war.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

	Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.
2. AREA—	81,524 acres.	477,186 acres.	558,710 acres.
POPULATION—			
(Mid. 1940).	277,470	146,600	424,070
3. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.			
Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	6,491	3,336	3,155
Illegitimate	223	115	108
Stillbirths	246	136	110
Deaths	5,231	2,626	2,605
No. of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth.			From, Sepsis ... 9
			Other causes ... 10
			Total ... 19
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live births			2.82
„ „ 1,000 total births			2.72
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births :—			
Legitimate ... 47.32	Illegitimate ... 2.91	Total	51.69
Death-rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			48.92
„ illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			89.28
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			641
„ „ Measles (all ages)			2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)			6
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			21

4. DEATHS. While the generl death-rate has unfortunately increased from 10.19 to 12.69 per 1,000 population, this increase is not ascribable to any one disease or group of diseases and would appear to be shared by all age groups, although perhaps a little more pronounced at the extremes of life, that is under 5 years and at 65 years and over. The Infant Mortality

has increased, as might be expected during a war period such as is now being experienced, from 44 to 51 per 1,000 births, but this figure compares very favourably with the second year of the last war, when in 1915 the Infant Mortality was 86 per 1,000 births.

The Zymotic death-rate of 0.09 compares favourably with that of the previous year, when it was 0.11, only one death being recorded from Typhoid Fever, none from Scarlet Fever and only 2 from Measles.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

5. **NURSING IN THE HOME.** There are now 58 Nursing Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association, employing 79 nurses and 6 nurses are maintained by the County Nursing Association as Relief Nurses.

It is gratifying to record that 42 District Nurses are now on the telephone. In 1938 only 19 had telephones installed. It is hoped that whenever possible further development of this service will be undertaken, since the telephone allows speedy contact with neighbouring nurse-midwives when immediate relief is wanted, also closer contact with the central organisation, and may be the means of expediting attendance in urgent cases.

The following is a summary of the nurses' work during the year:—

Midwifery cases	...	...	...	...	...	1,538
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	726
General cases	...	...	...	...	...	7,010
Nursing visits	...	...	...	...	...	126,769
Ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	11,880
Post-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	41,606
Casual visits	...	...	...	...	...	20,001
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres	...	...	...	...	...	896
School Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	54

A scheme of Voluntary Helpers—Civil Nursing Reserve—working under the direction of District Nurses, has been organised, and at the end of the year comprised the calling upon in time of emergency of 9 fully trained nurses, 8 assistant nurses, and 78 nursing auxiliaries. The preparation of this scheme was greatly facilitated by the ready help and co-operation of the County Superintendent, Miss NOBES, to whom our thanks are due.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

6. **INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.**—During 1940 there were 46 infant welfare centres operating in the County (44 voluntary and 2 maintained entirely by the County Council), each staffed by a County Health Visitor as Superintendent, and 29 of them having an Assistant County Medical Officer as medical officer of the centre. The remainder appointed local general practitioners to act as Medical Officers.

1,995 infants up to one year of age made 26,613 attendances at the 46 centres during the year and 4,559 children between one and five years of age made 22,310 attendances, a total attendance of 48,923 as against 46,283 in the previous year.

7. **ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.**

				<i>Cases on</i>	
		<i>Medical Officer.</i>		<i>Register.</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Arley Miners' Welfare, Gun Hill	...	Dr. M. SMITH WILSON	...	36	116
Bedworth, Saunders Avenue	...	Dr. AGNES YOUNG	...	107	396
Keresley, Church Hut	...	Dr. AGNES YOUNG	...	35	83
Kingsbury, Methodist School Room	...	Dr. M. SMITH WILSON	...	44	151
Rugby, Clifton Chambers, Clifton Road	...	Dr. AGNES YOUNG	...	241	1,361
Stratford-on-Avon, The Bungalow, Tyler Street	...	Dr. KATHERINE SCOTT	...	27	103
				490	2,210

In addition to the above Clinics, maintained by the County Council, ante-natal advice was given to cases seeking admission to the Solihull Maternity Home, a voluntary institution subsidised by the County Council, and to the Maternity Wards of the Warwick Hospital. The Warneford General Hospital, Leamington, and the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, provided a similar service, available for cases admitted on the authority of the County Council.

8. ANTE-NATAL MEDICAL SCHEME.

During the year 1940, midwives referred 1,195 uninsured cases (including 17 evacuees) to doctors on the Council's panel for ante-natal examinations. At the end of the year reports had been received on 950 cases (including 17 evacuees).

In addition 320 insured women were referred by midwives to panel doctors for ante-natal examination as part of the medical benefit to which they are entitled under the National Health Insurance Acts. Reports were received from doctors in 264 cases.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

9. MIDWIVES.—There were 181 trained midwives practising in the County at the end of the year. 157 of these were resident in the County and 24 lived outside the County. Of the 157 in the County area, 74 were attached to District Nursing Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association, 16 were whole-time County midwives, 51 were in institutions, 2 were employed by other bodies by arrangement with the County Council, and 14 were in independent practice.

426 inspections were made during the year and 228 visits in connection with matters arising in the midwives' practices.

Midwives without a doctor attended 3,625 cases, whilst they also attended a further 1,422 cases as maternity nurses with a doctor. It will be noted, therefore, that 5,047 women, representing 90.7% of births notified were nursed during parturition by registered midwives.

10. MEDICAL HELP FOR MIDWIVES.—During 1940 medical help was sought by midwives in 1,220 cases. Claims from medical practitioners were received in respect of 776 cases, including 34 evacuees, representing a total cost of £1,221 10s. 0d. Contributions were collected from patients in accordance with the usual custom.

11. PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS, 1939.—Notifications were received of 78 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, of which 24 occurred in the Boroughs of Nuneaton, Leamington Spa and Sutton Coldfield, and were dealt with administratively by the respective borough councils.

Of the remaining 54 cases, 22 were admitted to hospital under the County Scheme, and a second opinion was sought in 3 instances.

9 deaths were registered from Puerperal Sepsis in the County, giving a death-rate for this condition of 1.29 per 1,000 total births registered, as compared with 0.439 in the previous year.

12. COMPLICATED MATERNITY SERVICE.—128 complicated maternity cases were admitted to hospital under the County scheme, and a second opinion was sought in 34 cases.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

13. COUNTY MATERNITY HOME.—191 cases were admitted to the Rugby County Maternity Home with an average stay of 13.5 days. On the suggestion of a Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Health certain re-arrangements were made in the Home during 1940, which had the effect of reducing the number of beds from 14 to 12, but provided greater safety for the patients and somewhat better management. A fuller use of the available beds has resulted from the Committee's decision to permit an increased number of bookings.

14. HEALTH VISITORS.—During 1940 home visits to infants and children up to 5 years of age totalled 43,215, as against 46,890 in 1939.

The following is an analysis of the visiting and attendances at fixed appointments of the health visitors :—

Home Visits :						1939.	1940.
First visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	3,770	4,541
Re-visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	18,733	16,873
First visits to children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	3,592	3,642
Re-visits to children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	20,795	18,159
						<hr/> 46,890	<hr/> 43,215
To school children	...	...	...	...	...	5,636	6,092
Attendances at :							
Infant Welfare Centres	...	...	...	...	...	1,783	1,940
Ante-natal Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	111	106
School Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	580	642
Inspections at schools for uncleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	1,224	1,252
School Medical Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	894	930

In accordance with the arrangement with the Staffordshire County Council the following visits were undertaken by that Council's officers in the Bolehall and Glascote area :—Infants up to one year of age, first visits 34, re-visits 355 ; children one to five years of age, 633.

15. CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.—The County Register contained the names of 83 nursed-out children on the 1st January, 1940, including 4 associated with Dr. Barnardo's Homes, There were 32 removals and 38 additions to the Home Supervision Register during the year.

At the 31st December, therefore, there were 89 nursed-out children on the register.

Health Visitors paid 67 first visits and 252 re-visits to these children.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

16. The service has continued on the same lines as last year, two Clinics remaining closed and the work in these areas being maintained so far as possible by the utilisation of hospital out-patient facilities and home-visiting for after-care by the County Orthopaedic Sister.

During the year there were 1,499 cases on the Clinic Registers, and 9,300 attendances were made.

149 cases received hospital treatment and 49 not requiring major operative treatment were dealt with in the Paybody Convalescent Home, Allesley.

The County Orthopaedic Sister paid 770 home visits, of which 71 were to evacuees, and made 146 half-day attendances.

17. NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 187).

1. No. of applications for registration in 1940	...	...	...	2
2. No. of Homes registered during 1940	...	...	...	—
3. Total number registered in the County at the end of the year				8

The exemptions from registration previously granted in respect of the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, the General Hospital, Stratford-on-Avon, and the Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour, have been renewed.

Registration was cancelled in respect of two nursing homes.

18. EVACUATION. EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

The reception of expectant mothers from the evacuation areas of Birmingham and Coventry first commenced in September, 1939, when billets were found in the Stratford-on-Avon and Shipston-on-Stour districts and the women were admitted for confinement to Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour, and the Rother Street Convalescent Home, Stratford-on-Avon, the latter having been taken over by agreement and adapted as a Maternity Home.

The number of women availing themselves of the opportunity of being evacuated was in the first place disappointing, and many of those who did come into the County returned home before confinement. By the end of 1939, therefore, the Scheme had ceased to function and the Hospital and Convalescent Home returned to normal services.

It became apparent during the early part of 1940 that billeting of expectant mothers would be a very difficult proceeding except by the use of compulsion. At the instigation of the Ministry of Health, therefore, a search began for houses which could be utilised as Hostels where the women could be accommodated on communal lines before being admitted to a hospital or Maternity Home for confinement.

This method was an experiment, but it was anticipated that it might be possible to establish such hostels where the women could share the work of running the house, the only paid staff being a Health Visitor or Midwife acting as Matron or Warden and being able to continue with some of her normal duties as well. (Experience proved that the work of Matron did not permit of other duties, and that a whole-time cook was desirable).

The first of such Hostels (twenty-seven beds) was opened at the Weaving School, 2, Guild Street, Stratford-on-Avon, to accommodate evacuees from the South East Coast in July, 1940, and the Rother Street Convalescent Home was re-commissioned as a Maternity Home at the same time.

The Ministry were anxious that as little expenditure as possible should be incurred in connection with the establishment of the Weaving School Hostel, but by purchasing second-hand furniture, extensive borrowing and soliciting of gifts, and a good deal of ingenuity during a very intensive fortnight prior to the 23rd July, a reasonably comfortable Hostel was ready for occupation by 22 expectant mothers accompanied by three midwives who arrived by motor coach from East Sussex and the Borough of Hastings on that date.

The experiment proved highly successful on that occasion, and the spirit of co-operation which exhibited itself during the first days of its occupation has continued throughout, not only at the Weaving School but in the other Hostels which have since been opened. When it is considered that women of very varied circumstances have passed through these Hostels and that they have lived together in such close contact that discord might have been expected, it reflects great credit upon the various Matrons that there have been very few instances of unfriendly relationships between residents at any time.

The experiment of the Weaving School having proved so successful the billeting of expectant mothers in a Hostel became an established principle and further premises were sought. In August, 1940, Mr. H. L. JOHNSON, of Offchurch Bury, Nr. Leamington Spa, offered a wing of his house, which offer was accepted, and the accommodation furnished partly by equipment issued by the Ministry of Health from Central Stores and the remainder by the use of similar methods to those used in the case of the Weaving School.

By early September, the South East Coast mothers had all been confined and either found billets in the district, removed to friends or relations in other parts of the country or returned home. The general attitude of these women has been to return home after confinement so long as their home remained habitable, in some cases, however, they had lost their homes either before being evacuated or during their stay in Warwickshire. In some cases there has been opportunity for charitable work fulfilled either by the W.V.S. or privately, particularly by the provision of clothing.

On the 14th September the Weaving School (27 beds) and Offchurch Bury (24 beds) were put to use for the reception of a further 49 expectant mothers accompanied by 4 midwives from the South East Coast. Arrangements were made with the Warneford Hospital, Leamington, for the admission of the women from Offchurch Bury Hostel for confinement.

The reception of expectant mothers from the South East Coast was to some extent an unanticipated development, as only Birmingham and Coventry evacuees were originally planned for in Warwickshire.

A further extension of the institutional accommodation available became possible in September by the renting from Dr. H. L. CRAWFORD of a house—Avonside, Bidford-on-Avon—a beautiful grey stone mansion on the banks of the Avon, with terraces and lawns sweeping down to the river, formerly occupied by Dr. CRAWFORD and at that time unoccupied. This house was first adapted as a combined Maternity Home and Hostel with 10 lying-in beds on the ground floor and 5 Hostel beds on the first floor, subsequently added to by the offer by Mrs. CRAWFORD of the use of a large room over the garage of her present house, actually built in part of the original grounds of Avonside. This provided a further 6 Hostel beds.

In October a further experiment was tried, known as a "trickle" evacuation scheme from Coventry, followed by a similar Scheme from Birmingham in November. This Scheme provided for the evacuation of women in the last month of pregnancy to a Hostel and their return to the evacuation area after confinement, unless they preferred to find accommodation in the reception area.

Early October saw a new problem arise, particularly in connection with the women from the South East Coast, some of whom had by this time been confined but had nowhere to go on discharge from Hospital or Maternity Home. Arrangements had, therefore, to be made for the accommodation of these women and their babies until billets could be found or relatives contacted. The Ante-Natal Hostels were needed for cases coming out from the Evacuation areas and No. 3, The Butts, Warwick, was accordingly opened on the 7th October as a post-natal Hostel.

The "trickle" Schemes previously referred to had the effect of allowing more women to take advantage of the Hostel accommodation at the Weaving School and Offchurch Bury, as the time between admission and transfer to a lying-in ward was much shorter than in the case of the South East Coast evacuees. This, therefore, meant greater pressure on the lying-in accommodation, and on the 23rd October it became necessary to resume the admission of cases to the Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour. Heavy raids on Birmingham and Coventry during November and December accentuated the pressure upon the lying-in accommodation, and by January, 1941, the position was so serious at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington, that No. 3, The Butts, had to be re-opened as a Maternity Home at twenty-four hours' notice.

In the meantime a need had been felt for a Hostel nearer to Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour, and on the 16th January, the Rectory, Shipston-on-Stour, which had fallen temporarily vacant and had been requisitioned, was brought into commission after very hasty furnishing. Fortunately an auction sale at a private hotel requisitioned by the War Office supplied most of the needs at a low cost.

These premises were used for both ante-natal and post-natal cases until April, when the premises were released for their legitimate church purposes, and by which time it had been possible to arrange with the War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for the use of Cherington House Auxiliary Hospital. This arrangement has proved most suitable and is continuing.

In addition to women admitted through the ante-natal hostels there have been many admitted to the lying-in wards from billets in the County. These are known as "voluntary" evacuees, as they are usually women who have found their own billets either with friends or relatives without help from the Billeting Officers, but who are nevertheless "official" evacuees in that they possess "evacuation certificates" and their hosts are entitled to billeting allowances.

These cases are reported to me by Billeting Officers, Health Visitors, or by the women themselves making application direct, and arrangements have had to be made for their admission to a lying-in ward at the appropriate time, their hosts being unable to accommodate them during confinement.

Ante-natal care has been arranged either by the use of Clinics at the Hospitals, the establishment of Clinics at the Maternity Homes and the employment of a Medical Officer on a sessional basis, or the use of the domiciliary medical ante-natal scheme. The local circumstances have governed the procedure.

In the case of the Maternity Homes medical aid is sought when necessary in the usual way by the procedure laid down by the Midwives Acts and the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

In very few cases has the puerperium been eventful and very few babies have been lost either as stillbirths or through death during the first fourteen days.

During 1940, 266 women took advantage of the scheme, viz. :—

Hostels.

South East Coast	...	...	...	71
Birmingham	...	...	...	61
Coventry	...	...	...	87
				<hr/>
				219

Voluntary Evacuees.

(Various Authorities)	...	...	47
			<hr/>
			266

Since the 1st January, 1941, until the 31st August, a further 644 have passed through the lying-in wards, viz.,

Hostels.

Birmingham	...	...	...	230
Coventry	...	...	...	361
				<hr/>
				591

<i>Voluntary Evacuees</i>	...	...	...	53
				<hr/>
				644

It will, therefore, be seen that 910 women have come to Warwickshire from evacuation areas to be confined in an area reasonably safe from bombing during the past thirteen months.

So far as the financial side of this work is concerned, I cannot attempt to give details of the cost at this stage. Every woman is, however, expected to pay some contribution.

In the early stages the standard charge for maintenance in a Hostel was 10/-d. per week, but this was increased to 16/-d. as from 1st May, 1941. The standard rate in the case of the confinement periods of fourteen days is 11/-d. per day. In every case where any doubt is expressed as to ability to pay the full fees, circumstances are investigated and an assessment made as near as possible in accordance with the scales applicable to cases normally resident in Warwickshire.

It is of interest to note that £279 3s. 1d. was collected up to the 31st December, 1940, and a further £1,337 9s. 10d. since the 1st January, 1941, making a total collection of £1,616 12s. 11d. to the 31st August, 1941. Of this total sum, £628 12s. 3d. represents contributions towards maintenance in Hostels and £988 0s. 8d. Hospital or Maternity Home maintenance. There were still 358 outstanding debtors owing a total sum of £1,200 at the 31st August.

19. EVACUATION—CHILDREN EXCLUDED FROM BILLETS.

It has been the duty of the Council as Public Health Authority to provide Sick Bays and Hostels for children who for various reasons could not be billeted or who could not be retained in billets.

The first reception of school children in 1940 took place in June, when 2,219 children arrived from South East Coastal towns. Arrangements were made for the medical inspection of the children on arrival at 8 centres.

Immediate Hostels were prepared at Wilnecote, Rugby and Warwick, to which cases requiring cleansing or reputed Enuretics were sent. Sick Bay accommodation was also available at Leamington and Ullenhall.

In actual fact the children generally were healthy and well cared for and the only Hostel and Sick Bay accommodation needed for immediate admission was Wilnecote (20 cases), Warwick (21 cases) and Leamington Sick Bay (1 case). Leamington Sick Bay was originally opened in 1939, having been established largely by voluntary effort and vested in the Leamington Corporation. The Sick Bay was taken over by the County Council on the 1st June, 1940. The maximum accommodation is 27 beds.

Camp House, Ullenhall, was taken over from the Birmingham Union of Girls' Clubs on the 1st June, 1940, but was only used for one week until October, when it became necessary to

re-open the house for Enuresis cases and difficult children. 15 beds were provided and have been fully occupied practically the whole time.

On the 1st December the Lant Memorial Hall, Hatton, was opened as an additional Sick Bay, with accommodation for between 20 and 30 according to ages and sex.

Early in 1941, arrangements were made with the Staffordshire County Council for the admission of cases from the north of the County to the Sick Bay at King's Standing Hall, and fairly extensive use has been made of this arrangement until recently, when the premises have been taken over by the War Office.

An approach was made to the War Organisation of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John to secure the use of an auxiliary Hospital for the admission of children, having regard to the lack of Service casualties or sick for which the Hospitals were intended. In May, 1941, an arrangement was made for the use of Ragley Hall, Alcester, as a Children's Convalescent Home and cases have been sent there from E.M.S. Hospitals in the hope of releasing beds for the admission of cases of Scabies. There is, however, great demand for children's beds and it has not been possible to make any extensive use of Hospital beds for cases eligible for admission in the ordinary course to a Sick Bay provided the latter accommodation was available. Periods of quarantine for infectious diseases have also created difficulties in connection with the use of Hospital beds and Sick Bays.

The lack of adequate accommodation for difficult children and bedwetters has resulted in the Sick Bays being somewhat congested at times with these types of cases, but premises have recently been found which it is hoped may prove suitable for the establishment of a Hostel for difficult children.

The following statistics may be of interest :—

Admissions to Sick Bays :

25, Warwick Place, Leamington.

June—December, 1940	...	...	...	...	...	224
January—August, 1941	200
						— 424

Lant Memorial Hall, Hatton.

December, 1940—August, 1941	184
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King's Standing Hall, Staffs.

To August, 1941	35
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Admissions to Camp House Enuresis Hostel.

Ullenhall.

June—December, 1940	23
January—August, 1941	...	...	...	...	...	12
						— 35

Total number of children dealt with in Sick Bays and the Enuresis

Hostel	678
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Great credit is due to Miss H. J. BROTHERTON who (officially known as Honorary Secretary of the Sick Bays at Leamington and Hatton) has to all intents and purposes administered both Sick Bays in an entirely voluntary capacity. Her efforts on behalf of the children have been untiring.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

20. MINISTRY OF HEALTH INQUIRIES.

A local Inquiry was held at Leamington on the 2nd May, 1940, with regard to the Whitnash and Radford Semele Water Supply Scheme.

21. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During the year inspections of sewage works were carried out at Alcester, Hillmorton, Leamington, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon, Studley and Warwick. Samples were submitted for analysis, both of the effluents from the works and of the rivers or streams into which they discharged.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

22. The sampling of milk and other foods, etc., continued during the year on the usual lines. 5,310 samples were received by the County Analyst, and proceedings were instituted in 30 cases against 16 vendors.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938—68 "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Licences, and 656 "Accredited" Licences were granted, a total of 724 Licences, of which 710 remained in force at the end of the year.

14 Accredited licences were suspended during 1940, all these suspensions remaining in force at the end of the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

GENERAL.

23. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—The summary of the returns of the District Medical Officers of Health will be found in Table "C." There was a slight increase in Scarlet Fever, while the notifications of Diphtheria were practically identical with 1939; both diseases were fairly widespread over the whole County rather than severely epidemic in any particular area.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, but 11 deaths from Diphtheria are recorded, as against 1 and 8 respectively in the previous year.

The following table shows the cases of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) which were notified and deaths, the previous year's figures being given in parenthesis for purposes of comparison :—

	<i>Total cases notified.</i>			<i>Total Deaths.</i>		
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	826 (769)	...	...	— (1)
Diphtheria	221 (222)	...	...	11 (8)
Enteric Fever	10 (7)	...	...	1 (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia	67 (69)	...	...	9 (3)
Pneumonia	603 (515)	...	...	246 (170)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	81 (10)	...	...	23 (7)
Encephalitis Lethargica	1 (—)	...	...	8 (8)
Measles	2,977 (1,091)	...	...	2 (4)
Whooping Cough	534 (33)	...	...	6 (12)

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

24. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—26 notifications of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were received during the year as compared with 37 in 1939. Of these 8 were resident in the Boroughs of Leamington Spa and Sutton Coldfield, which are separate Maternity and Child Welfare Areas, leaving 18 notifications in the Maternity and Child Welfare County.

None of these cases were treated in hospital under the County Scheme.

Vision was unimpaired in 17 cases, the remaining case removed from the district.

57 notices of medical help were received from midwives on account of inflammation or watery discharge from the eyes, including cases subsequently notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS.

25. During the year 1940, 372 notifications of Tuberculosis were received—295 pulmonary cases and 77 other forms of Tuberculosis. Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis numbered 213, and from non-pulmonary tuberculosis 55, a total of 268. The death-rate from pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.50 per 1,000 of population, as against 0.43 per 1,000 in 1939.

Dr. J. McGEAGH WILLIAMS, the Chief Tuberculosis Officer, in his annual report, says :—

"During the year 1940, the number of new patients, including 91 transfers from other areas, examined at, or in connection with the Joint Committee's seven Dispensaries and at the Sutton Coldfield School Clinic was 1,242. In 1939 the number of new patients was 1,129, and in 1938, 1,187. The attendances at the seven Dispensaries and at the Sutton Coldfield

School Clinic numbered 3,104, as compared with 2,871 in 1939, and 2,988 in 1938. Four hundred and eighty (480) visits to old patients were made during the year.

" *After Care.*—There were 150 applications for help. The Tuberculosis Nurse dealt with the cases as follows :—

Financial Help	...	...	...	...	59
Clothing supplied	...	...	...	...	34
Nursing arrangements	...	...	...	...	30
Sent to Convalescent Homes	...	...	...	...	15
Social Service	...	...	...	...	9
Unable to help	...	...	...	...	3
					<hr/>
					150
					<hr/>

" Six of the patients who were helped financially received grants or were supplied with goods from the Warwickshire War Relief Committee. From this source a sum of £173 4s. 0d. was distributed. A sum of £120 11s. 9d. was given by private persons and Charitable Societies, making a total of £293 15s. 9d.

" *Extra Nourishment.*—The Joint Committee continues to grant extra nourishment to suitable cases. Their expenditure does not exceed £2 per 1,000 of the population of their area. During the year the Committee provided extra nourishment for 67 Warwickshire patients. Grants to 30 patients ceased during the period under consideration and there were 37 patients having extra diet on the 31st December, 1940. The Treasurer informed me that £371 8s. 0d. was spent on extra nourishment for Warwickshire patients, and £116 2s. 8d. for Coventry patients during the year, a total of £487 10s. 8d. In 1939, the amount spent for the whole Joint Committee's area was £902 17s. 6d., and in 1938, £999 19s. 11d.

" The Tuberculosis Nurse made 304 visits to patients in their homes, 68 of these being to discharged Ex-Service men. The number of visits made by the County Health Visitors was 1,585, of which 42 were to discharged ex-soldiers and ex-sailors.

" In addition to the above visits, 1,149 sick nursing visits were paid to homes of tuberculous patients, by District Nurses of various County Nursing Associations; 60 of the visits made by Health Visitors and 600 of the visits made by nurses of the County Nursing Associations were to patients not under the care of the Joint Committee."

Dr. CORYDON BUDGE, Medical Superintendent of the Warwickshire King Edward VII. Memorial Sanatorium, says :—

" *Beds.*—The beds at the Sanatorium are normally allocated as follows :—

Male, 90. Female, 101. Children, 34.

" Owing to pressure on beds, eight additional female beds were brought into use on the 27th May, 1940, and certain women's beds occupied by men. During the greater part of the year therefore the allocation of beds has been as follows :—

Male, 110. Female, 89. Children, 34.

" *X-Ray Work.*

3,744 screen examinations.

709 radiograms.

" *Treatment.—In-Patients.*—During the year :—

85 patients have been treated by artificial pneumothorax.

43 " " " " " sunlight.

18 " " " " " with sanocrysin.

7 " " " " " calcium sandoz.

16 " " " " " Tubercle Vaccine " Endotoxoid."

12 " " " " " had phrenic evulsions.

1,080 refills have been given to in-patients.

" 4 patients were transferred to the London Chest Hospital, Victoria Park, for operative treatment, of these :—

- 1 patient had a thoracoplasty performed.
- 1 " an extra-pleural pneumolysis performed.
- 2 patients had an internal pneumolysis performed.

" In 1939, 8 patients received treatment at Victoria Park Hospital.

" *Artificial Sunlight Treatment.*—During the year :—

" 53 patients, including 10 out-patients, were treated, classified as follows :—

Lupus	...	...	...	...	5 adults.	0 children.
Abdominal tuberculosis	...	...	...	4	"	3 "
Chilblains	...	...	...	20	"	7 "
Glands	...	...	...	0	"	6 "
Heads (Eczema and Alopecia)	...	...	...	0	"	3 "
Joints	...	...	...	5	"	0 "

1,399 attendances for light treatment were made by in-patients.

" *Out-Patient Department.*—During the year :—

(a) 87 patients attended for artificial pneumothorax.

- 55 " " periodical examinations.
- 2 " " treatment with sanocrysin.
- 4 " " " with calcium sandoz.
- 1 patient " " " Tubercle Vaccine "Endotoxoid."
- 4 patients " " for lupus with Phenylethyl Hydrocarbate.

" The number of attendances made by these patients were :—

1,570 attendances for treatment by artificial pneumothorax.

- 238 " " " " " sunlight.
- 10 " " " " " with sanocrysin.
- 102 " " " examination and screening.
- 24 " " " X-ray photographs.
- 4 " " " treatment with Tubercle Vaccine "Endotoxoid."
- 47 " " " " for lupus with Phenylethyl Hydrocarbate.

1,995 total attendances.

" Throughout 1940, the work of the Sanatorium proceeded normally. We were fortunate in having no serious interruptions to our routine, and with very few exceptions the patients endeavoured to avail themselves to the full of the opportunity offered them to regain their health.

" Owing to the increased proportion of advanced cases admitted, patients suitable for artificial pneumothorax and sanocrysin therapy were fewer. A somewhat increased number of bilateral pneumothorax cases, however, received treatment, the results showing improvement on past years.

" The use of a new Tubercle Vaccine "Endotoxoid" was commenced during the year and sixteen cases received this treatment. So far the results are inconclusive, but compared with the results from preparations of a similar type in past years, I am not unfavourably impressed."

26. VENEREAL DISEASE.

Facilities for the treatment of venereal disease continued to be provided at the five clinics under the County scheme, and 206 new cases—66 Syphilis, 1 Soft Chancre and 139 Gonorrhoea—attended the Clinics during the year, as against 222 in 1939. 88 persons completed treatment as against 155 in the previous year, and 91 as against 102 in 1939 ceased to attend without completing treatment. 15 compared with 63 were in an infectious condition at the time of default.

The out-patient attendances totalled 6,632 as against 8,918 in the previous year.

CONCLUSION.

27. The following table records some of the more important statistical results of the year under review, compared with previous rates since 1919 :—

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	Typhoid Fever Death Rate	Infant Mortality.	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live births.
1919.	18.04	11.90	0.39	0.86	0.006	77	5.00
1920.	25.18	10.62	0.41	0.65	0.008	65	3.40
1921.	22.27	10.73	0.46	0.64	0.002	65	3.60
1922.	21.16	11.04	0.33	0.68	0.003	60	5.01
1923.	19.75	10.29	0.50	0.66	0.02	60	2.80
1924.	18.76	10.98	0.30	0.69	0.01	60	4.30
1925.	18.46	11.15	0.42	0.70	0.005	62	5.00
1926.	17.52	10.52	0.31	0.65	0.005	54	3.30
1927.	17.30	11.25	0.21	0.64	0.007	66	2.90
1928.	16.83	10.13	0.23	0.55	0.008	55	4.59
1929.	16.29	12.70	0.33	0.70	0.01	60	4.20
1930.	16.63	10.82	0.25	0.51	0.008	49	4.50
1931.	15.69	11.06	0.20	0.51	0.01	55	4.30
1932.	15.38	11.52	0.22	0.49	0.008	55	3.70
1933.	13.71	11.42	0.16	0.52	—	54	5.20
1934.	14.31	10.71	0.22	0.42	0.005	48	4.97
1935.	13.44	9.60	0.21	0.45	0.005	47	3.68
1936.	15.08	10.56	0.23	0.42	0.002	52	5.21
1937.	15.32	11.25	0.21	0.41	—	50	3.17
1938.	16.63	10.17	0.18	0.47	0.002	48	2.87
1939.	16.18	10.19	0.11	0.43	—	45	2.26
1940.	15.83	12.69	0.09	0.50	0.002	51	2.82

In reviewing the principal statistics for the year 1940 it is of interest to note that the birth-rate, slightly reduced in 1939, has suffered a further reduction, as one would expect during war time, but is still comparable with the rate recorded ten years ago. On the other hand the Infant Mortality has increased, no doubt resulting from relaxation of parental care in the early days of life, various war-time causes contributing to this lapse. Intensive work is therefore called for from the Health Visiting staff if this increased mortality is to be stemmed, and I can see no reason why with supreme effort this should not be achieved.

Deaths from the seven principal infectious diseases are the lowest ever recorded in the County, a most gratifying record, since it was generally believed that evacuation of children from the cities to our countryside would lead to epidemics of unprecedented magnitude.

Maternal Mortality—2.82 per 1,000 live births—is not unduly high, but the difficulties now being experienced in the medical care of the public consequent upon depletion of personnel for military service will, I fear, affect adversely this rate in the near future. Hospital accommodation also for complicated cases is strained to the utmost, and is not likely to improve, at least for some time, consequently a heavy responsibility rests on those left in medical charge of motherhood to see that the best possible service is accorded the patient by taking advantage of the free specialist facilities provided by the County Council and by advising institutional treatment whenever the need for such is ascertained, and particularly before labour sets in.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis shews only an infinitesimal increase over the previous year, and is evidence that food restriction is not so severe as to affect injuriously that class of persons who normally benefit materially from a liberal dietary. Of the various means of combating the spread of this disease, that of segregating the advanced and highly infectious cases is one that calls for particular attention. The crying need for further institutional accommodation must not be lost sight of, even during a war period.

Looking back over the last twenty-two years of Public Health work in the County, it is true when I say that during that period much has been achieved towards the betterment of health, the accomplishment of which has been due to the foresight and willing co-operation of the County Public Health Committee, to whom I tender my sincere thanks for their confi-

dence and support. Never in the history of the Public Health service has there been such a flood of new legislation as was evidenced during the ten years preceding the outbreak of war, and since then the department can proudly claim to have played no insignificant part, both in forwarding the war effort, and in safeguarding the health, not only of our own citizens but of the thousands from our neighbouring and distant cities who have sought solace and, I hope, have secured comfort in our midst.

I cannot conclude this report without extending my thanks to all my medical colleagues, to the County Health Visitors and County Midwives, and to my entire office staff, for their loyalty and devotion to duty, particularly at times when war-time demands have made office routine arduous and administration difficult. Common with other departments permanent staff has been replaced largely by temporary employees, necessitating tuition and additional supervision, but the work has gone on unfalteringly, with the utmost credit to all those concerned. My main regret, as my thirty-four years' association with the Warwickshire County Council draws to a close, is the realization that so much constructive health work still remains to be done, but on the other hand it is gratifying to know that the future of the department will be assured in the capable hands of my successor, Dr. FRASER BROCKINGTON.

I have the honour to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. HAMILTON WOOD,

County Medical Officer of Health.

B. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES, Etc., for POPULATION, BIRTHS and DEATHS in the
URBAN and RURAL DISTRICTS, and RATES based thereon.

	Population.		Live Births.		Deaths.		Infant Mortality.		Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth.		Zymotic Diseases.		Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	
	Census, 1931.	Estimated middle of 1940.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Deaths. (Adjusted).	Death Rate.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate.	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate.	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate.
URBAN :														
Bedworth ..	16,959	21,360	369	17.27	251	15.74	17	44	3	0.14	2	0.09	26	1.21
Kenilworth ..	7,596	9,710	171	17.61	139	14.31	9	50	6	0.61	—	—	3	0.30
Leamington Spa ..	29,662	33,150	415	12.51	492	12.76	22	51	4	0.12	4	0.12	9	0.27
Nuneaton ..	46,305	48,950	885	18.07	531	12.76	52	58	23	0.46	5	0.10	31	0.63
Rugby ..	34,427	41,670	578	13.87	508	13.06	28	47	14	0.33	3	0.07	26	0.62
Solihull ..	25,371	54,760	1,047	19.11	578	12.13	57	53	16	0.29	7	0.12	17	0.31
Stratford-on-Avon ..	11,616	13,370	173	12.93	190	12.36	7	38	4	0.29	5	0.37	6	0.44
Sutton Coldfield ..	29,924	40,630	581	14.29	486	11.73	20	34	13	0.31	3	0.07	20	0.49
Warwick ..	13,459	13,870	219	15.78	197	14.01	11	48	1	0.07	—	—	8	0.57
Total Urban ..	215,319	277,470	4,438	15.99	3,372	12.87	223	49	84	0.30	29	0.10	146	0.52
RURAL :														
Alcester ..	11,233	11,350	151	13.30	169	13.24	9	52	2	0.17	—	—	6	0.52
Atherstone ..	21,865	21,600	346	16.01	262	13.87	16	45	5	0.23	3	0.13	12	0.55
Meriden ..	24,705	30,830	538	17.12	408	14.94	32	58	12	0.38	3	0.09	15	0.48
Rugby ..	17,890	16,520	209	12.65	197	12.51	12	55	1	0.06	1	0.06	9	0.54
Shipston-on-Stour ..	7,683	7,870	100	12.70	128	12.35	11	107	5	0.63	—	—	3	0.38
Southam ..	11,188	11,310	194	17.15	167	12.98	8	40	5	0.44	1	0.08	8	0.70
Stratford-on-Avon ..	14,114	15,940	240	15.05	206	11.24	7	28	1	0.06	3	0.18	5	0.31
Tanworth ..	14,026	14,840	249	16.77	155	11.27	20	77	8	0.53	—	—	6	0.40
Warwick ..	13,741	16,340	249	15.23	167	9.81	7	26	3	0.18	1	0.06	3	0.18
Total Rural ..	136,445	146,600	2,276	15.52	1,859	12.68	122	52	42	0.28	12	0.08	67	0.45
COUNTY TOTALS ..	351,764	424,070	6,714	15.83	5,231	12.69	345	51	126	0.29	41	0.09	213	0.50

C.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—SUMMARY OF RETURNS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

	Estimated Civillian Population as at June 30th, 1940.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria in cluding Mem- branous Group.	Enteric Fever; (Typhoid and Para-Typhoid).	Paratyphoid Cases included in Column 4.	Pneumonia.	Cholera.	Food Poisoning.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis.	Acute Polio-en- cephalitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Typhus Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Continued Fever.	Trench Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Erysipelas.	Tuberculosis		Malaria.		Chicken-Pox.	Measles (ex- cluding Ger- man Measles).	Whooping Cough.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
URBAN :—																													
Bedworth	21360	...	83	8	...	...	49	...	...	...	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	25	7	...	...	...	63	9
Kenilworth	9710	...	14	10	4	4	21	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	7	...	...	...	123	20
Leamington Spa	33150	...	29	7	10	1	31	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	23	5	...	...	...	263	56
Nuneaton	48950	...	39	11	...	...	50	...	...	...	16	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	49	11	...	...	...	241	60
Rugby	41670	...	145	36	...	...	61	...	...	...	8	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	37	12	...	...	...	678	7
Solihull	54760	...	68	24	12	12	40	...	...	...	3	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	11	36	8	...	...	...	137	164
Stratford-on-Avon	13370	...	55	6	1	1	22	...	...	...	11	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	10	1	...	...	...	34	16
Sutton Coldfield	40630	...	57	4	6	6	41	...	4	...	2	14	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	8	25	3	...	...	...	130	32
Warwick	13870	...	25	14	1	...	41	...	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	15	...	...	...	...	375	4
RURAL :—																													
Alcester	11350	...	24	2	1	1	40	...	...	...	2	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	1	...	...	...	30	18
Atherstone	21600	...	27	10	...	...	55	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	19	13	5	...	...	...	...	...
Meriden	30830	...	63	33	2	2	55	...	...	...	6	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	11	23	4	...	...	...	73	11
Rugby	16520	...	46	19	1	1	30	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	3	17	...	...	250	34
Shipston-on-Stour	7870	...	28	2	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	...	...	...	66	...
Southam	11310	...	11	2	...	...	10	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	2	3	...	...	...	...	267	23
Stratford-on-Avon	15940	...	52	4	2	2	16	...	...	...	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	2	...	...	...	72	46
Tamworth	14840	...	43	19	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	...	...	...	...	47	4
Warwick	16340	...	17	10	4	4	18	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	5	4	...	...	...	128	30
TOTALS...	424070	...	826	221	44	34	603	...	4	...	67	81	26	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	27	158	295	77	17	...	...	2977	534

D. RETURN shewing the number of Births Registered, together with the number of such cases successfully Vaccinated or otherwise disposed of in the Districts of the COUNTY OF WARWICK during the year ended 31st December, 1940.

VACCINATION DISTRICTS.	No of Births returned in "Birth List Sheets," as Registered during the year ended 31st Dec. 1939. 1	Cases successfully vaccinated, 1940.		Insusceptible of Vaccination. 4	Died Unvaccinated. 5	Cases under Postponement. 6	Removals to other Vaccination Districts 7	No. of cases not to be found. 8	Number of cases remaining Unvaccinated at end of 1940. 9	No. of Conscientious Certificates. 10
		No of Cases 2	Percentage of Births shewn in column 1 3							
1 Atherstone ...	323	27	8·3	...	15	...	...	...	84	197
2 Meriden ...	387	79	20·4	...	15	2	...	22	97	172
3 Sutton Coldfield ...	483	253	52·3	4	5	3	41	22	12	143
4 Tamworth ...	248	24	9·6	...	12	...	2	5	35	170
5 Nuneaton ...	920	51	5·5	1	36	12	22	32	36	730
6 Bedworth ...	336	35	10·4	...	10	1	...	20	...	270
7 Solihull ...	912	149	16·3	3	14	10	38	200	96	402
8 Rugby ...	678	109	16·0	...	19	5	6	25	49	465
9 Dunchurch ...	87	16	18·3	...	...	...	...	3	6	62
10 Leamington Spa ...	580	114	19·6	15	17	1	57	11	...	365
11 Warwick ...	373	54	14·4	...	10	...	23	4	50	232
12 Kenilworth ...	157	39	24·8	1	5	1	1	21	13	76
13 Southam ...	102	18	17·6	...	3	2	3	1	...	75
14 Stratford-on-Avon	249	54	21·7	...	9	5	12	18	11	140
15 Alcester ...	122	38	31·1	...	2	...	1	2	...	79
16 Wellesbourne ...	68	14	20·5	...	4	...	2	2	1	45
17 Shipston-on-Stour	136	30	22·0	...	8	8	10	18	1	61
TOTALS ...	6,161	1,104	17·9	24	184	50	218	406	491	3,684

